# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

In re:	)	Joint Case No. 04 B 23758
POLO BUILDERS, INC., et al.,	)	Chapter 7
Debtors.	)	Honorable A. Benjamin Goldgar
	)	Hearing: October 29, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

# NOTICE OF AMENDED FINAL FEE APPLICATION OF FREEBORN & PETERS LLP <u>AS SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE</u>

To: Attached Service List

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on October 15, 2012, Freeborn & Peters LLP ("F&P") filed its Amended Final Fee Application of Freeborn & Peters LLP as Counsel to the Chapter 7 Trustee (the "Final Application") with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois. By the Final Application, F&P seeks the entry of an order: (a) allowing, on a final basis, \$1,768,170.20 (representing \$3,878,665.60 in total billings minus \$2,110,495.20 in voluntary accommodations) in compensation for legal services rendered by F&P to David R. Brown, not individually, but solely as the chapter 7 trustee (the "Trustee") of the above-captioned debtors, and reimbursement of \$178,829.06 for expenses incurred, from August 16, 2004 through September 4, 2007; and (b) authorizing and directing the Trustee to pay F&P compensation and reimbursement of expenses in the aggregate amount of \$249,290.94.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT a hearing on the Final Application will take place before the Honorable A. Benjamin Goldgar of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, or whomever may be sitting in his place and stead, at 219 South Dearborn Street, Courtroom 613, Chicago, Illinois on October 29, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

Objections, if any, to the relief requested in the Final Application must be filed with the Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, on or before October 29, 2012. A copy of the Final Application may be obtained on the Court's PACER site at <a href="https://ecf.ilnb.uscourts.gov/">https://ecf.ilnb.uscourts.gov/</a> (account required) or upon request to special counsel to the Trustee, Freeborn & Peters LLP, 311 South Wacker Dr., Suite 3000, Chicago, Illinois 60606 (Attn: Neal H. Levin, 312-360-6000).

At the same time, you should also serve a copy of the objection upon the following so as to be received prior to the hearing on the Final Application: Freeborn & Peters LLP, 311 South Wacker Dr., Suite 3000, Chicago, Illinois 60606 (Attn: Neal H. Levin).

IF YOU FAIL TO RESPOND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS NOTICE, THE COURT MAY GRANT THE RELIEF REQUESTED IN THE APPLICATION WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OR HEARING.

Dated: October 15, 2012 FREEBORN & PETERS LLP

By: /s/ Neal Levin

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# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

In re:	) Joint Case No. 04 B 23758
POLO BUILDERS, INC., et al.,	) Chapter 7
Debtors.	) Honorable A. Benjamin Goldgar
	) Hearing: October 29, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Neal H. Levin, an attorney, do hereby certify that on October 15, 2012, I caused the attached *Notice of Amended Application, Cover Sheet* and *Amended Final Fee Application of Freeborn & Peters LLP as Special Counsel to the Chapter 7 Trustee* to be served on parties electronically via the CM/ECF system and the *Notice of Amended Application and Cover Sheet to the Amended Final Fee Application of Freeborn & Peters LLP as Special Counsel to the Chapter 7 Trustee* to be served via U.S. mail first class to the parties on the attached manual service list.

#### **SERVICE LIST**

## **CM/ECF Notice List**

The following is the list of parties who are curently on the list to receive e-mail notices for this case.

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# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

In re:	) Joint Case No. 04 B 23758
POLO BUILDERS, INC., et al.,	) Chapter 7
Debtors.	) Honorable A. Benjamin Goldgar
	) Hearing: October 29, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.

# AMENDED FINAL FEE APPLICATION OF FREEBORN & PETERS LLP AS SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE

Freeborn & Peters LLP ("F&P"), former special counsel to David R. Brown, the chapter 7 trustee previously appointed in the above-captioned, jointly-administered bankruptcy cases, hereby submits its *Amended Final Fee Application of Freeborn & Peters LLP as Special Counsel to the Chapter 7 Trustee* (the "Amended Final Fee Application"), which amends and supercedes Docket No. 1289<sup>1</sup> and in support thereof, states as follows:

### **BACKGROUND AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. On June 23, 2004, four of the five of the above-captioned, jointly-administered debtors (collectively, the "*Debtors*"), Polo Builders, Inc., M&MM Enterprises, LLC, Hasan Merchant, and Sheri Banoo Merchant, filed voluntary petitions for relief under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "*Bankruptcy Code*"). On June 29, 2004, the fifth of the Debtors, M.G. International, LLC, filed its voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the

On June 14, 2012, F&P filed that certain First Amended and Final Fee Application of Freeborn & Peters LLP as Counsel to the Chapter 7 Trustee With Respect to Settlement Agreement Enforcement (the "Enforcement Fee Application"). That application relates exclusively to services rendered by F&P to the Trustee from April 1, 2009 through June 12, 2012, for the limited purposes of (1) enforcing a settlement agreement between the Trustee and Hasan Merchant; and (2) investigating certain transactions involving Anicia Villafria. This Final Fee Application relates to a separate engagement between the Trustee and F&P and should be read independently of the June 14, 2012 application.

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Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors' bankruptcy cases are being jointly-administered for procedural purposes.

- 2. On August 16, 2004, this Court entered an order converting these bankruptcy cases to proceedings under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code. That same day, the Office of the United States Trustee appointed the Trustee.
- 3. On September 22, 2004, this Court entered an order authorizing the Trustee to employ and retain F&P as his special counsel in these chapter 7 cases, effective as of August 16, 2004.
- 4. On September 26, 2007, this Court entered an order (the "Substitution Order") substituting the law firm of Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLP ("Bell Boyd") as special counsel to the Trustee, effective as of September 4, 2007. The Substitution Order provides, however, that F&P remain as co-counsel to the Trustee solely in connection with the adversary proceeding styled David R. Brown, Trustee v. Real Estate Resource Management, LLC, et al., Adv. No. 04-4032.
- 5. On June 14, 2012, F&P filed its *Final Fee Application of Freeborn & Peters LLP as Special Counsel to the Chapter 7 Trustee* (Docket No. 1289) (the "*Initial Final Fee Application*"). Following the filing of the Initial Final Fee Application, several parties including David R. Brown, the former chapter 7 trustee (the "*Trustee*") and Philip V. Martino, the replacement chapter 7 trustee appointed in these cases raised several concerns therewith. These concerns included: (1) the Initial Final Fee Application did not separately account for time billed to each of the individual Debtor estates; and (2) the time was not allocated amongst specific tasks.
- 6. Given the length of time that has elapsed since F&P's initial employment by the Trustee concluded, and the fact that many of the key F&P attorneys representing the Trustee are

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no longer with the firm, a completely accurate reconstruction of F&P's time entries to satisfy the concerns of Messrs. Brown and Martino is not possible. However, F&P has engaged in a thorough analysis of each of the almost 7,000 attorney and paraprofessional time entries that make up this Amended Final Fee Application, attempting to properly allocate each such entry to particular task categories and particular Debtor estates. This analysis is incorporated in this Amended Final Fee Application, as discussed below on pages 35-36, and it is anticipated that this analysis should afford the Court, Mr. Martino and other parties-in-interest the opportunity to better understand F&P's services rendered to the Trustee.

- 7. This analysis is further complicated, however, because many of F&P's professional time entries cannot be allocated neatly to a particular Debtor estate. This reality is largely due to the fact that prior to the Petition Date, the Debtors' estates were not separately maintained. This is evidenced by a consistent pattern of (1) commingling of funds among the Debtors' estates; (2) multiple Debtors taking part in the transactions that formed the basis for much of the litigation; (3) transfers of assets and liabilities by and among each of the Debtors; and (4) the failure by the Debtors' former principal, Hasan Merchant, to properly document intra-Debtor transfers, maintain corporate formalities and otherwise treat each of the Debtors as independent corporate entities. Each of the foregoing facts likely support the substantive consolidation of the Debtors, which in turn would eliminate a potential objection to certain of F&P's requested compensation and promote the efficient wind-down of these estates. However, in light of the fact that substantive consolidation has not yet been sought or ordered, F&P has taken every possible effort to appropriately allocate its time amongst the estates.
- 8. After reviewing each of the attorney and paraprofessional time entries making up the Amended Final Fee Application, and consulting with multiple F&P attorneys that represented

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the Trustee in these cases, F&P has allocated the compensation sought in the Amended Final Fee Application as follows:

<u>Debtor/Task</u>	<b>Professional Hours</b>	<b>Amount Billed</b>
Polo Builders, Inc.	11,145.7	\$2,532,138.70
Ponzi Adversaries	• 5,120.5	• \$1,182,152.50
Non-Adversary Time	• 6,025.2	• \$1,349,986.20
Real Estate Resource Management	3,676.4	\$928,342.90
Adversary Proceeding		
M.G. International LLC	829.7	\$260,148.00
Hasan and Sheri Merchant	623.4	\$157,871.00
M&MM Enterprises LLC	1.1	\$165.00
ALL DEBTORS/TASKS	16,276.3	\$3,878,665.60

- 9. Notwithstanding this allocation, F&P submits that in light of the conduct set forth in paragraph 7, which supports the substantive consolidation of the estates, many of the services rendered during the Final Fee Application Period benefited not only the estate to which they have been allocated, but the other estates as well. By way of example, F&P's efforts to investigate the pre-bankruptcy conduct of Hasan Merchant, and to negotiate a settlement that has resulted in considerable recoveries by the Trustee, not only benefited the creditors of the Merchant estate, but also the creditors of the corporate estates, given Merchant's ostensible control over those entities and his receipt of substantial pre-petition transfers of corporate estate property. Accordingly, F&P's allocation should not be deemed an admission by F&P that its recoveries on its fee claims should be limited to the estate to which such fees were allocated.
- 10. Based on this analysis, as well as an analysis of the claims filed in these cases and the results of the Trustee's liquidation efforts, F&P has agreed to provide the estates with a substantial voluntary fee accommodation. In so doing, by this Amended Final Fee Application, F&P will not seek additional compensation for its attorney and paraprofessional time spent on

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the (1) Polo Builders, Inc. Ponzi scheme adversary proceedings or (2) the Real Estate Resource Management adversary proceeding – an accommodation in the aggregate amount of \$2,110,495.40, resulting in a request for final approval of fees in the amount of \$1,768,170.20. When taking into account the \$1,518,879.56 in payments received by F&P on account of previously-approved First Interim Fee Application and Monthly Statements, this substantial accommodation will reduce F&P's request for additional payment on account of its fees to \$249,290.94, which amount is exclusive of F&P's claim for reimbursable expenses set forth in this Amended Final Fee Application. With this accommodation, coupled with the accommodation offered by the Trustee's successor counsel, these estates will be rendered administratively solvent, and estate recoveries – notably, the Merchant settlement procured by F&P – will be sufficient to satisfy professional fee claims in full and result in a distribution to unsecured priority creditors.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 11. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
- 12. The statutory predicates for the relief requested herein are sections 330, 331, 503(b), and 507(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, Rule 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), and Rule 5082-1 of the Local Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois (the "Local Rules").

#### **INTERIM COMPENSATION PROCEDURES**

13. On November 10, 2004, this Court entered its *Order Granting Motion of Chapter*7 Trustee for Entry of an Administrative Order Under Sections 105(a) and 331 of the Bankruptcy

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Code Establishing Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses for Professionals (the "Interim Compensation Procedures Order").

- 14. Pursuant to the Interim Compensation Procedures Order, F&P was authorized to file Monthly Fee Applications (as defined in the Interim Compensation Order) for interim approval and allowance of compensation for services rendered and reimbursement of expenses incurred during the applicable Monthly Compensation Periods (as defined in the Interim Compensation Order). It should be noted that the Interim Compensation Order did not require F&P, the Trustee or any other professional to allocate its time amongst the several Debtor estates.
- 15. In the event that no Objection (as defined in the Interim Compensation Procedures Order) was filed to a Monthly Fee Application (or upon resolution of such an Objection), the Interim Compensation Procedures Order authorized the Trustee to pay F&P an amount equal to ninety percent (90%) of the fees and one hundred percent (100%) of the expenses requested in such Monthly Fee Application.
- 16. The Interim Compensation Procedures Order further authorized F&P to apply to the Court for payment of the ten percent (10%) of compensable fees held back from each Monthly Fee Application no earlier than after every fourth Monthly Fee Application.

# FEES AND EXPENSES INCURRED BY F&P

## I. Previously Approved Interim Fee Applications

17. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Procedures Order, on May 11, 2005, F&P filed the *First Holdback Fee Application of Freeborn & Peters LLP as Special Counsel to the Chapter 7 Trustee* (the "*First Interim Fee Application*"). Pursuant to the First Interim Fee Application, F&P sought interim approval of its fees and expenses for the months of

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August 2004 through December 2004, which were set forth in the relevant Monthly Statements served in accordance with the Interim Compensation Order, as well as payment by the Debtor to F&P of \$42,290.70, representing the ten percent (10%) of F&P's fees that were held back from those Monthly Statements. As set forth in the relevant Monthly Statements, F&P's fees and expenses for the months of August 2004 through December 2004 were as follows:

- August 2004: \$25,742.00 in services billed and actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$3,482.48, for a total of \$26,650.28.
- September 2004: \$118,551.00 in services billed and actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$5,938.02, for a total of \$112,633.92.
- October 2004: \$113,771.00 in services billed and actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$3,280.72, for a total of \$105,674.62.
- November 2004: \$96,671.50 in services billed and actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$1,507.61, for a total of \$88,511.96.
- December 2004: \$68,171.50 in services billed and actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$1,279.02, for a total of \$62,633.37.
- 18. No objections were received to the First Interim Fee Application, and by order dated June 8, 2005 (the "First Interim Fee Order"), the Court approved the First Interim Fee Application, less F&P's reduction of reimbursable expenses in the amount of \$2,029.18 (representing half of internal photocopy expenses and certain meal and taxicab expenses). A true and correct copy of the First Interim Fee Order is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit A*.

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# II. Previously Filed Monthly Statements

- 19. In addition to the services performed by F&P for which interim approval of fees and reimbursement of expenses was sought pursuant to the First Interim Fee Application, F&P served Monthly Statements on account of services performed for the following months:
  - January 2005 March 2005
  - August 2005 May 2006
  - August 2006

Each of these Monthly Statements are described below.

- 20. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Procedures Order, on May 24, 2005, F&P served upon the Trustee, the Debtors' counsel, and the Office of the United States Trustee (collectively, the "Notice Parties"), a monthly statement of fees and expenses for the month of January 2005 (the "January 2005 Monthly Statement"), seeking interim allowance of compensation in the amount of \$76,292.10 (90% of the \$84,769.00 in services billed) and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$3,668.93, for a total of \$79,961.03. No objections were received to the fees and expenses requested in the January 2005 Monthly Statement. A true and correct copy of the January 2005 Monthly Statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit B*.
- 21. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Procedures Order, on June 13, 2005, F&P served upon the Notice Parties, a monthly statement of fees and expenses for the month of February 2005 (the "February 2005 Monthly Statement"), seeking interim allowance of compensation in the amount of \$132,135.75 (90% of the \$146,817.50 in services billed) and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$6,198.12, for a total of \$138,333.87. No objections were received to the fees and expenses requested in the February

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2005 Monthly Statement. A true and correct copy of the February 2005 Monthly Statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit C*.

- 22. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Procedures Order, on June 17, 2005, F&P served upon the Notice Parties, a monthly statement of fees and expenses for the month of March 2005 (the "March 2005 Monthly Statement"), seeking interim allowance of compensation in the amount of \$287,411.40 (90% of the \$319,346.00 in services billed) and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$26,807.49, for a total of \$314,218.89. No objections were received to the fees and expenses requested in the March 2005 Monthly Statement. A true and correct copy of the March 2005 Monthly Statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit D*.
- 23. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Procedures Order, on June 19, 2006, F&P served upon the Notice Parties, a monthly statement of fees and expenses for the month of August 2005 (the "August 2005 Monthly Statement"), seeking interim allowance of compensation in the amount of \$57,860.55 (90% of the \$64,289.50 in services billed) and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$1,609.23, for a total of \$59,469.78. No objections were received to the fees and expenses requested in the August 2005 Monthly Statement. A true and correct copy of the August 2005 Monthly Statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit E*.
- 24. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Procedures Order, on June 19, 2006, F&P served upon the Notice Parties, a monthly statement of fees and expenses for the month of September 2005 (the "September 2005 Monthly Statement"), seeking interim allowance of compensation in the amount of \$49,274.10 (90% of the \$54,749.00 in services billed) and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$2,258.96, for a total of

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\$51,533.06. No objections were received to the fees and expenses requested in the September 2005 Monthly Statement. A true and correct copy of the September 2005 Monthly Statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit F*.

- 25. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Procedures Order, on June 20, 2006, F&P served upon the Notice Parties, a monthly statement of fees and expenses for the month of October 2005 (the "October 2005 Monthly Statement"), seeking interim allowance of compensation in the amount of \$85,782.69 (90% of the \$95,314.10 in services billed) and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$5,358.59, for a total of \$91,141.28. No objections were received to the fees and expenses requested in the October 2005 Monthly Statement. A true and correct copy of the October 2005 Monthly Statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit G*.
- 26. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Procedures Order, on June 20, 2006, F&P served upon the Notice Parties, a monthly statement of fees and expenses for the month of November 2005 (the "November 2005 Monthly Statement"), seeking interim allowance of compensation in the amount of \$49,656.06 (90% of the \$55,173.40 in services billed) and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$5,272.44, for a total of \$54,928.50. No objections were received to the fees and expenses requested in the November 2005 Monthly Statement. A true and correct copy of the November 2005 Monthly Statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit H*.
- 27. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Procedures Order, on June 20, 2006, F&P served upon the Notice Parties, a monthly statement of fees and expenses for the month of December 2005 (the "December 2005 Monthly Statement"), seeking interim allowance of compensation in the amount of \$47,918.34 (90% of the \$53,242.60 in services billed) and

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reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$2,832.04, for a total of \$50,750.38. No objections were received to the fees and expenses requested in the December 2005 Monthly Statement. A true and correct copy of the December 2005 Monthly Statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit I*.

- 28. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Procedures Order, on June 20, 2006, F&P served upon the Notice Parties, a monthly statement of fees and expenses for the month of January 2006 (the "January 2006 Monthly Statement"), seeking interim allowance of compensation in the amount of \$56,809.35 (90% of the \$63,121.50 in services billed) and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$14,769.09, for a total of \$71,578.44. No objections were received to the fees and expenses requested in the January 2006 Monthly Statement. A true and correct copy of the January 2006 Monthly Statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit J*.
- 29. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Procedures Order, on June 20, 2006, F&P served upon the Notice Parties, a monthly statement of fees and expenses for the month of February 2006 (the "February 2006 Monthly Statement"), seeking interim allowance of compensation in the amount of \$45,730.80 (90% of the \$50,812.00 in services billed) and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$839.83, for a total of \$46,570.63. No objections were received to the fees and expenses requested in the February 2006 Monthly Statement. A true and correct copy of the February 2006 Monthly Statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit K*.
- 30. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Procedures Order, on February 3, 2007, F&P served upon the Notice Parties, a monthly statement of fees and expenses for the month of March 2006 (the "March 2006 Monthly Statement"), seeking interim allowance of

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compensation in the amount of \$60,338.70 (90% of the \$67,043.00 in services billed) and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$2,175.94, for a total of \$62,514.64. No objections were received to the fees and expenses requested in the March 2006 Monthly Statement. A true and correct copy of the March 2006 Monthly Statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit L*.

- 31. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Procedures Order, on February 4, 2007, F&P served upon the Notice Parties, a monthly statement of fees and expenses for the month of April 2006 (the "April 2006 Monthly Statement"), seeking interim allowance of compensation in the amount of \$16,570.35 (90% of the \$18,411.50 in services billed) and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$135.25, for a total of \$16,705.60. No objections were received to the fees and expenses requested in the April 2006 Monthly Statement. A true and correct copy of the April 2006 Monthly Statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit M*.
- 32. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Procedures Order, on February 4, 2007, F&P served upon the Notice Parties, a monthly statement of fees and expenses for the month of May 2006 (the "May 2006 Monthly Statement"), seeking interim allowance of compensation in the amount of \$47,333.25 (90% of the \$52,592.50 in services billed) and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$2,041.72, for a total of \$49,374.97. No objections were received to the fees and expenses requested in the May 2006 Monthly Statement. A true and correct copy of the May 2006 Monthly Statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit N*.
- 33. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Procedures Order, on July 17, 2007, F&P served upon the Notice Parties, a monthly statement of fees and expenses for the month of

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August 2006 (the "August 2006 Monthly Statement"), seeking interim allowance of compensation in the amount of \$152,762.85 (90% of the \$169,736.50 in services billed) and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$5,106.53, for a total of \$157,869.38. No objections were received to the fees and expenses requested in the August 2006 Monthly Statement. A true and correct copy of the August 2006 Monthly Statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit O*.

# III. Periods For Which Interim Fee Applications or Monthly Statements Were Not Filed

- 34. F&P also rendered services on behalf of the Trustee during the periods of: (i) April 2005 through July 2005; (ii) June 2006 through July 2006; and (ii) September 2006 through September 4, 2007, but has not served Monthly Statements, nor has it filed Interim Fee Applications, for fees and expenses incurred during those periods. F&P's fees and incurred expenses for each of these periods is described below.
- 35. For April 2005, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$82,540.50 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$3,260.69, for a total of \$85,801.19. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during April 2005 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit P*.
- 36. For May 2005, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$76,774.00 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$6,822.15, for a total of \$83,596.15. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during May 2005 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit Q*.
- 37. For June 2005, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$115,842.50 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$1,364.11,

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for a total of \$117,206.61. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during June 2005 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit R*.

- 38. For July 2005, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$75,194.00 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$1,968.65, for a total of \$77,162.65. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during July 2005 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit S*.
- 39. For June 2006, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$163,724.00 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$14,980.92, for a total of \$178,704.92. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during June 2006 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit T*.
- 40. For July 2006, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$102,749.00 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$8,995.55, for a total of \$111,744.55. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during July 2006 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit U*.
- 41. For September 2006, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$126,912.00 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$34,542.70, for a total of \$161,454.70. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during September 2006 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit V*
- 42. For October 2006, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$108,401.00 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$17,997.00, for a total of \$126,398.00. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during October 2006 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit W*

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- 43. For November 2006, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$94,877.50 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$4,382.38, for a total of \$99,259.88. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during November 2006 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit X*.
- 44. For December 2006, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$57,667.50 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$745.88, for a total of \$58,413.38. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during December 2006 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit Y*.
- 45. For January 2007, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$149,687.00 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$3,912.87, for a total of \$153,599.87. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during January 2007 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit Z*.
- 46. For February 2007, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$143,405.00 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$2,675.18, for a total of \$146,080.18. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during February 2007 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit AA*.
- 47. For March 2007, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$147,006.00 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$3,190.01, for a total of \$150,196.01. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during March 2007 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit BB*.
- 48. For April 2007, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$45,388.50 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$951.72, for a

total of \$46,290.22. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during April 2007 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit CC*.

- 49. For May 2007, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$111,130.00 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$1,517.01, for a total of \$112,647.01. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during May 2007 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit DD*.
- 50. For June 2007, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$125,795.50 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$3,481.76, for a total of \$129,277.26. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during June 2007 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit EE*.
- 51. For July 2007, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$182,423.00 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$8,593.87, for a total of \$191,016.87. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during July 2007 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit FF*.
- 52. For August 2007, F&P seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$250,873.50 and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$12,131.84, for a total of \$263,005.34. A detailed schedule of services rendered and expenses incurred by F&P during August 2007 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as *Exhibit GG*.

# IV. Payments Received by F&P to Date

53. To date, F&P has received \$1,518,879.56 from the Trustee on account of the First Interim Fee Application and the Monthly Statements filed.

#### PAYMENT REQUESTED

54. Pursuant to this Amended Final Fee Application, F&P seeks an order allowing, on a final basis, \$1,768,170.20 in compensation and \$178,829.06 in reimbursable expenses for F&P's representation of the Trustee during the Final Fee Application Period (net of a substantial voluntary accommodation set forth below). F&P further requests entry of an order authorizing and directing Mr. Martino to make payment to F&P on account of all unpaid compensation and reimbursable expenses allowed by this Amended Final Fee Application.

#### **DISCUSSION**

55. Section 330(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides, in pertinent part, that:

[T]he court may award . . . reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services rendered by the . . . attorney and by any paraprofessional person . . . and . . . reimbursement for actual, necessary expenses. . . . In determining the amount of reasonable compensation to be awarded, the court shall consider the nature, the extent, and the value of such services, taking into account all relevant factors, including – (A) the time spent on such services; (B) the rates charged for such services; (C) whether the services were necessary to the administration of, or beneficial at the time at which the service was rendered toward the completion of, a case under [the Bankruptcy Code]; (D) whether the services were performed within a reasonable amount of time commensurate with the complexity, importance, and nature of the problem, issue, or task addressed; and (E) whether the compensation is reasonable, based on the customary compensation charged by comparably skilled practitioners in cases other than cases under this title.

56. The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals has stated that:

The computation of hourly fees depends on the number of hours "reasonably" expended, the hourly rate of each [professional], the calculation of the time value of money (to account for delay in payment), potential increases and decreases to account for risk and the results obtained, and a complex of other considerations under the heading of "billing judgment."

*Kirchoff v. Flynn*, 786 F.2d 320, 325 (7th Cir. 1986). Additionally, other courts of appeal have recognized that:

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[I]t is important for the court to maintain a sense of overall proportion and not become enmeshed in meticulous analysis of every detailed facet of the professional representation. It is easy to speculate in retrospect that the work could have been done in less time or with fewer attorneys or with an associate rather than a partner. On the other hand, it is also possible that [the client] would not have enjoyed the success it did had its counsel managed matters differently.

Boston and Main Corp. v. Moore, 776 F.2d 2, 10 (1st Cir. 1985) (citations omitted).

57. In reviewing the Amended Final Fee Application, the Court should be guided by the Seventh Circuit's instruction to ascertain whether such services were rendered and billed in accordance with the established market for legal services in similar matters:

[I]t is not the function of judges in fee litigation to determine the equivalent of the medieval just price. It is to determine what the lawyer would receive if he was selling his services in the market rather than being paid by court order.

In re Continental Illinois Securities Litigation, 962 F.2d 566, 568 (7th Cir. 1992); see Mann v. McCombs (In re McCombs), 751 F.2d 286, 288 (8th Cir. 1984) (section 330 "is meant to encourage high standards of professional legal practice in the bankruptcy courts. . . . Bankruptcy courts must consider whether the fee awards are commensurate with fees for professional services in non-bankruptcy cases, thus providing sufficient economic incentive to practice in bankruptcy courts.").

58. In *Continental Securities*, the Seventh Circuit found error in the lower court's practice of: (a) placing ceilings on the hourly rates of all lawyers; (b) refusing to allow paralegal services to be compensated at market rate; (c) refusing to award a risk multiplier; (d) making large across-the-board cuts in research time; (e) making large across-the-board cuts in conference time; and (f) refusing to allow attorneys to bill computerized legal research services (*e.g.*, LEXIS). *Continental Illinois Securities Litigation*, 962 F.2d at 568-70.

- 59. In evaluating the Amended Final Fee Application, the Court should consider the novelty and difficulty of the issues presented, the skill required to perform the legal services properly, the preclusion of other employment caused by F&P's retention in this case, the customary fees charged in similar cases, the existence of time limits under which the services were rendered, the results obtained, the experience and ability of the attorneys involved, and the amount of awards of compensation in similar cases. *See In re Alberto*, 121 B.R. 531, 534 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. 1990).
- 60. F&P's hourly rates of compensation for those attorneys and para-professionals during the Final Fee Application Period periods range from \$40 to \$595 (however, no professional with an hourly rate in excess of \$450 has performed services herein). Those rates are comparable to rates charged by other practitioners having the same amount of experience, expertise, and standing for similar services in this jurisdiction. F&P consistently and consciously made every reasonable effort to represent the Committee in the most economical, efficient, and practical manner possible.
- 61. A summary of the compensation requested herein regarding each of F&P's professionals and para-professionals is set forth below:

#### **Services Rendered In 2004**

	Tital.	Year of Illinois Bar	Hourly	Total	Total Compensation
Timekeeper	Title	Admission	Rate	Hours	Requested
Allen, Patricia O.	Paralegal	N/A	\$145.00	38.1	\$5,524.50
Atterberry, Rachel	Associate	2004	\$200.00	122.4	\$24,480.00
Colunga, Gia F.	Associate	2004	\$200.00	4.7	\$940.00
Curth, Daniel C.	Partner	1995	\$355.00	3.8	\$1,349.00
Di Bella, Gina	Associate	2004	\$200.00	39.3	\$7,860.00
	Docket				
Furcron, Hussein	Coordinator	N/A	\$40.00	13.0	\$520.00
Galbreath, Lee E.	Secretary	N/A	\$45.00	1.5	\$67.50

		Year of			
		Illinois			Total
		Bar	Hourly	Total	Compensation
Timekeeper	Title	Admission	Rate	Hours	Requested
Goldstein, Harley J.	Partner	1998	\$420.00	495.4	\$208,068.00
Gomez, Teresa	Paralegal	N/A	\$145.00	183.6	\$26,622.00
	Paralegal				
Gray, Jacquita D.	Clerk	N/A	\$95.00	0.6	\$57.00
Hartmann, Steven M.	Partner	1983	\$420.00	23.6	\$9,912.00
Holland, Tracey	Paralegal	N/A	\$145.00	7.7	\$1,116.50
Kane, David L.	Associate	2002	\$235.00	371.4	\$87,279.00
Lamperis, Eleni S.	Associate	1998	\$250.00	14.6	\$3,650.00
Levin, Neal H.	Partner	1990	\$420.00	3.0	\$1,260.00
Madden, David M.	Associate	2003	\$200.00	135.1	\$27,020.00
Mayer, Jeffrey J.	Partner	1986	\$450.00	17.0	\$7,650.00
Moynihan, Michael A.	Partner	1992	\$375.00	5.3	\$1,987.50
Schlott, Kimberly L.	Paralegal	N/A	\$155.00	0.4	\$62.00
Traub, Richard J.	Partner	1987	\$390.00	5.8	\$2,262.00
Watson II, C. Edward	Partner	1990	\$450.00	11.6	\$5,220.00
TOTAL			1,497.9	\$422,907.00	
Blended Rate for All Tim	nekeepers:		\$282.33		

# **Services Rendered in 2005**

Timekaanan	Title	Year of Illinois Bar	Hourly	Total	Total Compensation
Timekeeper Allen, Patricia O.		Admission N/A	<b>Rate</b> \$150.00	<b>Hours</b> 191.0	Requested
	Paralegal Associate	N/A 2004			\$28,650.00
Atterberry, Rachel	_		\$205.00	1.3	\$266.50
Bartlett, Alan R.	Paralegal	N/A	\$150.00	327.4	\$49,110.00
Baumac, Krystyna	Paralegal	N/A	\$140.00	14.8	\$2,072.00
Benjamin, Deborah	Paralegal	N/A	\$160.00	37.2	\$5,952.00
Bott, Rebecca	Paralegal	N/A	\$145.00	4.1	\$594.50
D I I A I I	Summer	2007	φ100 00	10.1	Φ2 200 00
Brodrick, Audrey L.	Associate	2007	\$190.00	12.1	\$2,299.00
Bryan, Sarah H.	Law Clerk	N/A	\$185.00	279.4	\$51,689.00
	Office	37/4	<b></b>	1.0	<b>4.70.70</b>
Butler, Nicholas F.	Services	N/A	\$45.00	1.3	\$58.50
	Paralegal	37/4	<b>402.00</b>	2.5	ф222 00
Clement, Henley J.	Clerk	N/A	\$92.00	3.5	\$322.00
Colunga, Gia F.	Associate	2004	\$205.00	9.7	\$1,988.50
Cooper, Joel T.	Partner	1981	\$460.00	2.0	\$920.00
Curth, Daniel C.	Partner	1995	\$370.00	1.9	\$703.00
	Paralegal				
Darby, Ryan D.	Clerk	N/A	\$90.00	14.5	\$1,305.00
Di Bella, Gina	Associate	2004	\$205.00	52.0	\$10,660.00
Dunham, Maureen B.	Paralegal	N/A	\$160.00	3.5	\$560.00
Durkin, Daniel T.	Paralegal	N/A	\$150.00	0.5	\$75.00
Fawkes, Thomas R.	Associate	2002	\$250.00	237.5	\$59,375.00
E	Docket	NT/A	¢40.00	11.0	¢440.00
Furcron, Hussein	Coordinator	N/A	\$40.00	11.0	\$440.00
Galbreath, Lee E.	Secretary	N/A	\$45.00	7.5	\$337.50
Gandhi, Ami D.	Associate	2004	\$205.00	18.4	\$3,772.00
Goldstein, Harley J.	Partner	1998	\$450.00	673.7	\$303,165.00
Gomez, Teresa	Paralegal	N/A	\$150.00	297.1	\$44,565.00
Hammer, Aaron L.	Partner	1997	\$435.00	7.2	\$3,132.00
	Senior		****		
Hobbins, Kathleen L.	Counsel	1995	\$355.00	30.4	\$10,792.00
Holland, Tracey	Paralegal	N/A	\$150.00	494.8	\$74,220.00
Kallish, Marc	Associate	1996	\$260.00	255.6	\$66,456.00
Kane, David L.	Associate	2002	\$250.00	439.1	\$109,775.00
Kelly, Michael J.	Partner	1980	\$450.00	27.7	\$12,465.00
	Paralegal				
Kennerly, Ross M.	Clerk	N/A	\$90.00	4.1	\$369.00
Keough, Nora B.	Paralegal	N/A	\$150.00	13.2	\$1,980.00
Koerth, Theodore J.	Associate	2002	\$260.00	65.5	\$17,030.00

		Year of Illinois			Total
		Bar	Hounky	Total	
Timekeeper	Title	Admission	Hourly Rate	Hours	Compensation Requested
Kornak, Michael P.	Partner	1996	\$390.00	66.5	\$25,935.00
,					·
Levin, Neal H.	Partner	1990	\$450.00	124.3	\$55,935.00
Madden, David M.	Associate	2003	\$225.00	295.4	\$66,465.00
Mayer, Jeffrey J.	Partner	1986	\$450.00	85.5	\$38,475.00
	Paralegal				
McAlister, Megan V.	Clerk	N/A	\$90.00	5.5	\$495.00
Milos, Jennifer L.	Associate	2001	\$245.00	19.6	\$4,802.00
Neblett, Suzanne B.	Paralegal	N/A	\$150.00	1.2	\$180.00
Nettles, Brian	Paralegal	N/A	\$150.00	9.1	\$1,365.00
Novak, Anna Larson	Associate	2001	\$230.00	323.0	\$74,290.00
Pope, Maryjo	Paralegal	N/A	\$160.00	30.3	\$4,848.00
	Office				
Pratt, Sarah L.	Services	N/A	\$45.00	27.6	\$1,242.00
	Office				
Ramirez, Joao	Services	N/A	\$45.00	5.5	\$247.50
Scotti, Michael J.	Partner	1991	\$370.00	73.1	\$27,047.00
Swano, Amy L.	Paralegal	N/A	\$150.00	7.7	\$1,155.00
Takada, Joji	Associate	2004	\$225.00	230.7	\$51,907.50
_	Paralegal				
Taylor, Chad E.	Clerk	N/A	\$92.00	4.8	\$441.60
Weichman, Marie	Paralegal	N/A	\$160.00	1.9	\$304.00
Wise, Juthika	Paralegal	N/A	\$160.00	0.9	\$144.00
Zeller, Sheila C.	Associate	1997	\$250.00	14.7	\$3,675.00
TOTAL		4,866.3	\$1,224,052.10		
Blended Rate for All Tim	\$251.53		·		

# **Services Rendered in 2006**

		Year of			TD . 4 . 1
		Illinois		700 4 3	Total
		Bar	Hourly	Total	Compensation
Timekeeper	Title	Admission	Rate	Hours	Requested
Allen, Patricia O.	Paralegal	N/A	\$160.00	56.7	\$9,072.00
Bartlett, Alan R.	Paralegal	N/A	\$150.00	257.3	\$38,595.00
Benjamin, Deborah	Paralegal	N/A	\$160.00	1.5	\$240.00
Bettenhausen, Jill M.	Paralegal			37.0	\$3,885.00
	Clerk	N/A	\$105.00		
Bryan, Sarah H.	Law Clerk	N/A	\$185.00	360.7	\$66,729.50
DeNotto, Stephanie H.	Paralegal			16.0	\$1,680.00
	Clerk	N/A	\$105.00		
DiRago, Joseph B.	Associate	2004	\$235.00	121.8	\$28,623.00

		Year of Illinois			Total
		Bar	Hourly	Total	Compensation
Timekeeper	Title	Admission	Rate	Hours	Requested
Durkin, Daniel T.	Paralegal	N/A	\$150.00	14.1	\$2,115.00
Fawkes, Thomas R.	Associate	2002	\$265.00	450.8	\$119,462.00
Franczyk, Cathleen	Paralegal	N/A	\$165.00	9.6	\$1,584.00
Furcron, Hussein	Docket	N/A	\$40.00	0.5	\$20.00
1 0.10131, 110330111	Coordinator	1 1/1 1	Ψ.0.00	0.0	Ψ <b>20.</b> 00
Gandhi, Ami D.	Associate	2004	\$225.00	16.6	\$3,735.00
Goldstein, Harley J.	Partner	1998	\$465.00	170.5	\$79,282.50
Gomez, Teresa	Paralegal	N/A	\$160.00	297.5	\$47,600.00
Hammer, Aaron L.	Partner	1997	\$450.00	1.8	\$810.00
Hammerle, John C.	Associate	2005	\$220.00	5.7	\$1,254.00
Hammond, Ernestine	Secretary	N/A	\$40.00	1.0	\$40.00
Heller, Jeffrey M.	Law Clerk	N/A	\$185.00	152.9	\$28,286.50
Holland, Tracey	Paralegal	N/A	\$150.00	618.2	\$92,730.00
Kallish, Marc				289.6	\$75,296
	Associate	1996	\$260.00		
Kane, David L.	Associate	2002	\$265.00	28.1	\$7,446.50
Kelly, Michael J.	Partner	1980	\$450.00	94.3	\$42,435.00
Koerth, Theodore J.	Associate	2002	\$260.00	245.3	\$63,778.00
Kornak, Michael P.	Partner	1996	\$390.00	87.9	\$34,281.00
Levin, Neal H.	Partner	1990	\$465.00	4.4	\$2,046.00
Mayer, Jeffrey J.	Partner	1986	\$450.00	74.0	\$33,300.00
Mazzulla, Tina C.	Paralegal			65.6	\$6,888.00
	Clerk	N/A	\$105.00		
McClintock, Matthew E.	Associate	2003	\$250.00	465.9	\$116,475.00
Moynihan, Michael A.	Partner	1992	\$390.00	1.6	\$624.00
Neblett, Suzanne B.	Paralegal	N/A	\$150.00	32.0	\$4,800.00
Nylen, Sven T.	Associate	2002	\$265.00	228.2	\$60,473.00
O'Brien, Michael T.	Paralegal	N/A	\$195.00	3.3	\$643.50
Paige, Kellie D.	Secretary	N/A	\$45.00	0.8	\$36.00
Pratt, Sarah L.	Office			4.2	\$189.00
	Services	N/A	\$45.00		
Swano, Amy L.	Paralegal	N/A	\$160.00	3.2	\$512.00
Takada, Joji	Associate	2004	\$240.00	10.6	\$2,544.00
Ter Molen, David L.	Associate	1999	\$275.00	5.7	\$1,567.50
Thoma, Susan E.	Paralegal	N/A	\$160.00	597.0	\$95,520.00
Weichman, Marie	Paralegal	N/A	\$165.00	6.0	\$990.00
Wise, Juthika	Paralegal	N/A	\$160.00	3.2	\$512.00
TOTAL				4,842.7	\$1,076,100.00
Blended Rate for All Tim	\$221.21				

# **Services Rendered in 2007**

		Year of Illinois			Total
		Bar	Hourly	Total	Compensation
Timekeeper	Title	Admission	Rate	Hours	Requested
Allen, Patricia O.	Paralegal	N/A	\$165.00	1.8	\$297.00
Ballantyne, Patricia	Secretary	N/A	\$45.00	3.0	\$135.00
Bartlett, Alan R.	Paralegal	N/A	\$195.00	8.8	\$1,716.00
	Paralegal				,
Bettenhausen, Jill M.	Clerk	N/A	\$105.00	18.5	\$1,942.50
Brodrick, Audrey L.	Associate	2007	\$225.00	18.0	\$4,050.00
Bryan, Sarah H.	Law Clerk	N/A	\$190.00	77.1	\$14,649.00
Clement, Henley J.	Paralegal	N/A	\$160.00	11.0	\$1,760.00
Darby, Ryan D.	Paralegal	N/A	\$170.00	90.8	\$15,436.00
	Paralegal				
DeNotto, Stephanie H.	Clerk	N/A	\$105.00	3.5	\$367.50
DiRago, Joseph B.	Associate	2004	\$250.00	126.8	\$31,700.00
	Paralegal				
Dirienzo, Nick M.	Clerk	N/A	\$105.00	1.9	\$199.50
Durkin, Daniel T.	Paralegal	N/A	\$160.00	58.3	\$9,328.00
Fawkes, Thomas R.	Associate	2002	\$275.00	437.2	\$123,430.00
Gandhi, Ami D.	Associate	2004	\$245.00	3.8	\$931.00
Girsch, Rebecca M.	Associate	2000	\$260.00	4.7	\$1,222.00
Goldstein, Harley J.	Partner	1998	\$475.00	220.3	\$104,642.50
Gomez, Teresa	Paralegal	N/A	\$165.00	247.5	\$40,837.50
Hammerle, John C.	Associate	2005	\$240.00	1.2	\$288.00
Heller, Jeffrey M	Law Clerk	N/A	\$190.00	74.9	\$14,231.00
Holland, Tracey	Paralegal	N/A	\$160.00	68.3	\$10,928.00
Jacobs, John F.	Associate	1993	\$260.00	0.5	\$130.00
	Paralegal				
Jazwiec, Jenny	Clerk	N/A	\$105.00	97.3	\$9,754.50
Kallish, Marc	Associate	1996	\$275.00	501.8	\$137,940.00
Kelly, Michael J.	Partner	1980	\$470.00	30.3	\$14,100.00
Keough, Nora B	Paralegal	N/A	\$170.00	145.7	\$24,769.00
Koerth, Theodore J.	Associate	2002	\$275.00	129.4	\$35,585.00
Kornak, Michael P.	Partner	1996	\$405.00	113.2	\$45,846.00
Mayer, Jeffrey J.	Partner	1986	\$470.00	200.5	\$94,235.00
Mayer, Michael S.	Associate	2006	\$220.00	111.5	\$24,530.00
	Paralegal				
Mazzulla, Tina C	Clerk	N/A	\$110.00	62.5	\$6,875.00
McClintock, Matthew E.	Associate	2003	\$260.00	808.2	\$210,132.00
Morgan, James E.	Partner	2001	\$475.00	152.1	\$72,247.50
Nettles, Brian	Paralegal	N/A	\$160.00	6.5	\$1,040.00
Nylen, Sven T.	Associate	2002	\$275.00	25.7	\$7,067.50

Timekeeper	Title	Year of Illinois Bar Admission	Hourly Rate	Total Hours	Total Compensation Requested
	Office				
Pratt, Sarah	Services	N/A	\$40.00	0.6	\$24.00
Rose, Suzanne M.	Associate	1999	\$260.00	16.5	\$4,290.00
	Office				
Smith, Gilbert	Services	N/A	\$60.00	30.0	\$1,800.00
Smith, Laura A.	Paralegal	N/A	\$160.00	0.5	\$80.00
Swano, Amy L	Paralegal	N/A	\$180.00	5.8	\$1,044.00
Thoma, Susan E.	Paralegal	N/A	\$165.00	520.5	\$85,882.50
Weichman, Marie	Paralegal	N/A	\$180.00	0.8	\$144.00
TOTAL				4,437.3	\$1,155,606.50
<b>Blended Rate for All Tir</b>	nekeepers:		\$257.30		

# Services Rendered During Final Fee Application Period

		Year of		
		Illinois		Total Commongation
Timelmone	Title	Bar Admission	Total Hayana	Total Compensation
Timekeeper			Total Hours	Requested
Allen, Patricia O.	Paralegal	N/A	287.6	\$43,543.50
Atterberry, Rachel	Associate	2004	123.7	\$24,746.50
Ballantyne, Patricia	Secretary	N/A	3.0	\$135.00
Bartlett, Alan R.	Paralegal	N/A	593.5	\$89,421.00
Baumac, Krystyna	Paralegal	N/A	14.8	\$2,072.00
Benjamin, Deborah	Paralegal	N/A	38.7	\$6,192.00
Bettenhausen, Jill M.	Paralegal Clerk	N/A	55.5	\$5,827.50
Bott, Rebecca	Paralegal	N/A	4.1	\$594.50
Brodrick, Audrey L.	Associate	2007	30.1	\$6,349.00
Bryan, Sarah H.	Law Clerk	N/A	717.2	\$133,067.50
Butler, Nicholas F.	Office Services	N/A	1.3	\$58.50
Clement, Henley J.	Paralegal Clerk	N/A	14.5	\$2,082.00
Colunga, Gia F.	Associate	2004	14.4	\$2,928.50
Cooper, Joel T.	Partner	1981	2.0	\$920.00
Curth, Daniel C.	Partner	1995	5.7	\$2,052.00
Darby, Ryan D.	Paralegal	N/A	105.3	\$16,741.00
DeNotto, Stephanie H.	Paralegal Clerk	N/A	19.5	\$2,047.50
Di Bella, Gina	Associate	2004	91.3	\$18,520.00
DiRago, Joseph B.	Associate	2004	248.6	\$60,323.00
Dirienzo, Nick M.	Paralegal Clerk	N/A	1.9	\$199.50
Dunham, Maureen B.	Paralegal	N/A	3.5	\$560.00
Durkin, Daniel T.	Paralegal	N/A	72.9	\$11,518.00
Fawkes, Thomas R.	Associate	2002	1,125.5	\$302,267.00

		Year of Illinois		
/D*1	(D)41	Bar	T. 4 . 1 II	Total Compensation
Timekeeper	Title	Admission	Total Hours	Requested
Franczyk, Cathleen	Paralegal	N/A	9.6	\$1,584.00
Furcron, Hussein	Docket Coordinator	N/A	24.5	\$980.00
Galbreath, Lee E.	Secretary	N/A	9.0	\$405.00
Gandhi, Ami D.	Associate	2004	38.8	\$8,438.00
Girsch, Rebecca M.	Associate	2000	4.7	\$1,222.00
Goldstein, Harley J.	Partner	1998	1,559.9	\$695,158.00
Gomez, Teresa	Paralegal	N/A	1,025.7	\$159,624.50
Gray, Jacquita D.	Paralegal Clerk	N/A	0.6	\$57.00
Hammer, Aaron L.	Partner	1997	9.0	\$3,942.00
Hammerle, John C.	Associate	2005	6.9	\$1,542.00
Hammond, Ernestine	Secretary	N/A	1.0	\$40.00
Hartmann, Steven M.	Partner	1983	23.6	\$9,912.00
Heller, Jeffrey M.	Law Clerk	N/A	227.8	\$42,517.50
Hobbins, Kathleen L.	Senior Counsel	1995	30.4	\$10,792.00
Holland, Tracey	Paralegal	N/A	1,189.0	\$178,994.50
Jacobs, John F.	Associate	1993	0.5	\$130.00
Jazwiec, Jenny	Paralegal Clerk	N/A	97.3	\$9,754.50
Kallish, Marc	Associate	1996	1047.0	\$279,692.00
Kane, David L.	Associate	2002	838.6	\$204,500.50
Kelly, Michael J.	Partner	1980	152.3	\$69,000.00
Kennerly, Ross M.	Paralegal Clerk	N/A	4.1	\$369.00
Keough, Nora B.	Paralegal	N/A	158.9	\$26,749.00
Koerth, Theodore J.	Associate	2002	440.2	\$116,393.00
Kornak, Michael P.	Partner	1996	267.6	\$106,062.00
Lamperis, Eleni S.	Associate	1998	14.6	\$3,650.00
Levin, Neal H.	Partner	1990	131.7	\$59,241.00
Madden, David M.	Associate	2003	430.5	\$93,485.00
Mayer, Jeffrey J.	Partner	1986	377.0	\$173,660.00
Mayer, Michael S.	Associate	2006	111.5	\$24,530.00
Mazzulla, Tina C.	Paralegal Clerk	N/A	128.1	\$13,763.00
McAlister, Megan V.	Paralegal Clerk	N/A	5.5	\$495.00
McClintock, Matthew E.	Associate	2003	1,274.1	\$326,607.00
Milos, Jennifer L.	Associate	2001	19.6	\$4,802.00
Morgan, James E.	Partner	2001	152.1	\$72,247.50
Moynihan, Michael A.	Partner	1992	6.9	\$2,611.50
Neblett, Suzanne B.	Paralegal	N/A	33.2	\$4,980.00
Nettles, Brian	Paralegal	N/A	15.6	\$2,405.00
Novak, Anna Larson	Associate	2001	323.0	\$74,290.00
Nylen, Sven T.	Associate	2002	253.9	\$67,540.50
O'Brien, Michael T.	Paralegal	N/A	3.3	\$643.50
Paige, Kellie D.	Secretary	N/A	0.8	\$36.00

		Year of Illinois		
		Bar		<b>Total Compensation</b>
Timekeeper	Title	Admission	Total Hours	Requested
Pope, Maryjo	Paralegal	N/A	30.3	\$4,848.00
Pratt, Sarah L.	Office Services	N/A	32.4	\$1,455.00
Ramirez, Joao	Office Services	N/A	5.5	\$247.50
Rose, Suzanne M.	Associate	1999	16.5	\$4,290.00
Schlott, Kimberly L.	Paralegal	N/A	0.4	\$62.00
Scotti, Michael J.	Partner	1991	73.1	\$27,047.00
Smith, Gilbert	Office Services	N/A	30.0	\$1,800.00
Smith, Laura A.	Paralegal	N/A	0.5	\$80.00
Swano, Amy L.	Paralegal	N/A	16.7	\$2,711.00
Takada, Joji	Associate	2004	241.3	\$54,451.50
Taylor, Chad E.	Paralegal Clerk	N/A	4.8	\$441.60
Ter Molen, David L.	Associate	1999	5.7	\$1,567.50
Thoma, Susan E.	Paralegal	N/A	1,117.5	\$181,402.50
Traub, Richard J.	Partner	1987	5.8	\$2,262.00
Watson II, C. Edward	Partner	1990	11.6	\$5,220.00
Weichman, Marie	Paralegal	N/A	8.7	\$1,438.00
Wise, Juthika				
Chakraborty	Paralegal	N/A	4.1	\$656.00
Zeller, Sheila C.	Associate	1997	14.7	\$3,675.00
TOTAL:			15,642.6	\$3,878,665.60
Blended Rate for All Timekeepers:		\$247.75		

- 62. No agreement or understanding exists between F&P and any other person for the sharing of compensation received or to be received in connection with these chapter 7 cases, other than as disclosed or authorized pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rules, and Local Rules.
- 63. F&P reserves the right to correct, amend, or supplement this Amended Final Fee Application.

# SERVICES PERFORMED AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

64. This Amended Final Fee Application sets forth in detail the work performed by F&P and the time spent during the Final Fee Application Period. The principal tasks performed by F&P's professionals on behalf of the Trustee in these cases may be categorized as: (i) general

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case administration; (ii) overseeing the marketing and sale of the Debtors' real estate assets, including devising a novel "designation rights" procedure related to the same; (iii) investigation of the Debtors' principals' conduct, and negotiation and documentation of a global settlement with such principals; (iv) prosecution of an adversary proceeding against Real Estate Resource Management, LLC ("RERM") and its principals based on their breaches of a contract to purchase a significant real estate asset of the Debtors; (v) investigation of a Ponzi scheme (the "Ponzi Scheme") allegedly carried out by the Debtors' principals; and (vi) prosecuting claims against over seven hundred (700) individuals and entities believed to have been participants in, and beneficiaries of, the Ponzi Scheme. Despite the fact that F&P professionals did not initially allocate their time amongst these several project categories, F&P has undertaken a detailed analysis of each of the time entries comprising this Amended Final Fee Application, which analysis is set forth below.

# I. General Case Administration

65. Throughout its representation of the Trustee, F&P performed a variety of tasks aimed at the effective administration of the Debtors' estates and assets. Among other things, these tasks included: (i) fielding inquiries from parties-in-interests, including creditors, investors, the Office of the United States Trustee, and other estate professionals; (ii) administering the claims process, including reviewing and analyzing filed proofs of claim; (iii) attending and conducting all hearings and status conferences related to these cases before this Court; (iv) filing and prosecuting all motions necessary to the administration of the cases; (v) addressing issues concerning the Debtors' real estate assets; (vi) evaluating non-real estate property of the Debtors' estates; and (vii) assisting in the preparation of all reports required to be

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filed by the Trustee. Each of these tasks was necessary to the administration of these cases and benefited the Debtors' estates.

# II. <u>Disposition of Debtors' Real Estate Assets</u>

- 66. Against considerable opposition, and on behalf of and in conjunction with the Trustee, F&P crafted and obtained approval of a novel and complex "designation rights deal," handled significant property disposition and lien assessment and resolution issues, and transformed the Debtors' heavily encumbered real properties into the resources necessary to fund the Trustee's investigation of the Debtors' assets and conduct.
- 67. Pursuant to the designation rights order entered by the Court, the Trustee was authorized to retain a designation rights agent, who was charged with rehabilitating, developing, marketing, and selling nine of the Debtors' real estate holdings which included vacant land, single-family residences, undeveloped single-family home lots, the mid-rise Polo Tower condominium, over one hundred townhome units, a vacant banquet hall, and additional condominium units. The Trustee, through the designation rights agent, was authorized with no further Court approval to sell each of these properties pursuant to section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code, free and clear of liens, claims, and encumbrances, with valid and properly perfected liens on such properties attaching to the proceeds thereof.
- 68. The designation rights process developed by F&P allowed the Trustee to dispose of key assets of the Debtors in an efficient, cost-effective manner, and resulted in substantial benefit to the Debtors' estates.

## III. Investigation of Debtors' Principals' Conduct

69. Shortly after retention, F&P was enlisted to undertake an intensive investigation into Hasan Merchant's financial and business affairs. With a concentration in white collar fraud,

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F&P aggressively and quickly ferreted out many abnormalities in the Debtors' affairs. The investigation included several Bankruptcy Rule 2004 examinations of key participants and business affiliates of the Debtors and their business operations, as well as a comprehensive forensic examination of the Debtors' computers and accounting systems, third-party investigation and surveillance of Mr. Merchant, and the review of many thousands of pages of documents and public records.

70. In less than five months, F&P's fraud examination team uncovered wrongful distributions, fraudulent transfers, commingling, conversion and what appeared to be the framework for the Ponzi Scheme. Confronted with these discoveries, Mr. Merchant and his wife, Sheri Merchant, were left little choice but to settle the various claims being developed by the Trustee. As a result of the efforts of F&P and the Trustee, over \$1 million dollars in unencumbered funds been produced for the Debtors' bankruptcy estate, and in addition, the Trustee and the Debtors entered into a settlement agreement whereby the Trustee agreed to waive his right to object to the Merchants' discharge in exchange for a series of installment payments to the Debtors' estates totaling \$4 million. This settlement has, and will continue to bring, substantial sums into the Debtors' estates for the benefit of creditors.

#### IV. Prosecution of RERM Adversary Proceeding

71. A significant aspect of F&P's representation of the Trustee was based on the Trustee's filing and prosecution of an adversary proceeding against Real Estate Resource Management, LLC ("RERM") and two of its principals. In the RERM adversary proceeding, the Trustee alleged, among other things, that the defendants breached a contract to purchase one of the Debtors' most significant real property holdings – the Polo Tower condominium located at 4180 N. Marine Drive, Chicago, IL.

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72. After a lengthy pre-trial process, which involved significant discovery disputes and multiple substitutions of counsel by the Defendants, as well as numerous dispositive motions, the RERM adversary proceeding went to trial in September 2007. Ultimately, Judge Schmetterer found in favor of the Trustee on his breach of contract count, awarding damages of \$150,000.

# V. <u>Investigation of Debtors' Ponzi Scheme</u>

- 73. F&P was charged with conducting an investigation into the existence of a fraudulent scheme orchestrated by the Debtors, and in particular, the principal of the Debtors, Merchant, in a wide-ranging effort to obtain financial gain for certain of the Debtors' investors, including Merchant, while fleecing other investors. The vehicle for this fraud was an illegal "Ponzi" scheme, whereby the Debtors promised large returns to investors by continually using recent investments to satisfy previous investments without actually creating anything of value. This scheme embraced a broad range of unlawful activity creation of false contracts, forgery, embezzlement, bribery, and even immigration fraud. In the end, some of the Debtors' largest investors and associates, and others in charge of the scheme, did receive the payments promised to them, though many investors were simply defrauded of their investments.
- 74. This investigation proved to be extraordinarily complex and difficult, given the sheer volume of investments made in the Debtors' business enterprises, the number of alleged participants in the Debtors' "Ponzi" scheme, and a complete lack of reliable records maintained by the Debtors in no small part due to the apparent destruction of the Debtors' electronically-stored documents. Therefore, in order to fully investigate the alleged "Ponzi" scheme, F&P issued hundreds of subpoenas to alleged investors, financial institutions, and business associates of the Debtors, reviewed hundreds of thousands of pages of documentation received from a

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variety of sources, and conducted dozens of interviews of the Debtors' principals, former employees, business associates, and alleged investors.

#### VI. Prosecution of Ponzi Scheme Adversary Proceedings

75. As a result of the investigation conducted by F&P, the Trustee determined that several hundred individuals and entities may have received, collectively, tens of millions of dollars in pre-Petition Date transfers that were potentially avoidable and recoverable by the Trustee under sections 544, 548, and 550 of the Bankruptcy Code for the benefit of the Debtors' unsecured creditors. F&P was thus charged with drafting, filing, and prosecuting adversary proceedings against these transferees.

76. In June 2006, F&P initiated an adversary proceeding against over seven hundred (700) defendants, and subsequently, pursuant to a severance order entered by the Court, initiated individual adversary proceedings against over one hundred and thirty (130) individuals and entities believed to have received avoidable fraudulent transfers from the Debtors during the relevant pre-Petition Date periods. In the fifteen months following the initiating of those proceedings, through the date upon which F&P concluded its service to the Trustee, F&P engaged in a panoply of litigation-related activities, including: (i) defending scores of motions to dismiss and motions for summary judgment filed by defendants; (ii) drafting discovery requests, responding to discovery served on the Trustee, and participating in both formal and informal discussions with defendants (or their counsel) regarding a potential resolution of the Trustee's claims; (iii) entering into settlements with a number of defendants; and (iv) ultimately dismissing a number of adversary proceedings upon a determination that the prosecution of a more limited number of adversary proceedings was in the best interests of the Debtors' estates. As of the date

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upon which Bell Boyd was substituted as counsel to the Trustee, approximately seventy (70) adversary proceedings filed by the Trustee were pending.

#### **EXPENSES INCURRED**

- 77. Detailed itemizations of all expenses incurred are incorporated in the First Interim Fee Application, the Monthly Statements for each of the months from January 2005 through March 2005, August 2005 through May 2006, and August 2006, and the detailed itemization of expenses attached hereto for the periods from April 2005 through July 2005, June 2006 through July 2006, and September 2006 through September 4, 2007. Expenses during the Final Fee Application Period were incurred in the following general categories:
- (a) <u>Air Express Delivery</u>: F&P incurred air express delivery charges in the amount of \$1,685.15. In all of its bankruptcy and non-bankruptcy cases, F&P uses commercial air express, overnight shipping, and delivery services. These expenses are necessary because numerous parties, entities, and their counsel are located outside of Chicago and are entitled to receive prompt notice of pleadings and prompt and secure delivery of important documents. F&P incurred actual out-of-pocket expenses in connection with such overnight deliveries, all of which were necessary for the proper representation of the Trustee. F&P makes no profit on these expenses.
- (b) <u>Computer Legal Research</u>: The computerized research services, charges for which amounted to \$61,342.49, allowed F&P to reduce the time expended in researching complex areas of law. The information obtained from such computer assisted research was instrumental in preparing and arguing certain pleadings. The Seventh Circuit has stated that even the most experienced attorney must conduct (or have conducted for her) research to evaluate changes in the law, address new issues, and refresh her recollection. Failure to do so

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would be to court sanctions or a malpractice suit. *Continental Illinois Securities Litigation*, 962 F.2d at 570.

- (c) <u>Court Filing and Recording Fees</u>: F&P incurred expenses in the amount of \$47,813.00, representing fees collected by the bankruptcy court and state courts in proceedings involving the Trustee, and in obtaining documents from recorders' offices. Notably, F&P incurred substantial expenses with respect to Bankruptcy Court filing fees for initiating adversary proceedings against those individuals and entities that are alleged to have participated in the Ponzi Scheme. F&P makes no profit on these expenses.
- (d) <u>Local Travel and Messenger Expenses</u>: F&P incurred expenses in the amount of \$4,612.74 in connection with necessary local messenger and travel expenses. Local messenger services were necessary to provide large pleadings, motions, and other documents to parties in a timely manner. F&P incurred local travel expenses in connection with attending various meetings and court hearings, and for individuals who worked outside of business hours to meet deadlines. F&P incurred actual out-of-pocket expenses in relation to such local travel and messenger deliveries, all of which were necessary for the proper representation of the Trustee in these bankruptcy proceedings. F&P uses outside messenger services and makes no profit on these expenses.
- (e) <u>Photocopying</u>: Although F&P incurred internal copying and printing charges in the amount of \$55,021.70, F&P has reduced these expenses by one-half, or \$27,510.85. Thus, while the costs charged for F&P's in-house duplication service is twenty cents per copy, the cost charged herein is ten cents per copy. The documents copied included correspondence, pleadings, research, briefs, memoranda, and similar materials relating to this bankruptcy case. F&P maintains a record of in-house copies made through a computerized

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system. This procedure requires an operator to key in a client's code number on a keypad attached to the copier. For large projects, F&P uses outside copy services for purposes of efficiency and charges amounts actually incurred, and incurred expenses for these services in the amount of \$16,394.93. Such copying charges were necessary to the proper representation of the Trustee in these bankruptcy proceedings.

- (f) <u>Subpoena and Witness Fees</u>: F&P incurred expenses in the amount of \$841.17 for subpoena and witness fees. These expenses were necessary for the Trustee to conduct his investigation into the Debtors and their principals, and allowed the Trustee to secure the testimony of key witnesses to the Debtors' conduct. F&P makes no profit on these expenses.
- (g) <u>Court Reporter Fees</u>: F&P incurred expenses in the amount of \$15,551.65 for fees paid to court reporters. These expenses were incurred in order to have court reporters present at a number of depositions conducted in conjunction with F&P's investigation of the Debtors and their principals, and in order to obtain transcripts of certain key Court hearings in these cases. These expenses were necessary to F&P's representation of the Trustee, and F&P makes no profit on these expenses.
- (h) Other Fees, Other Outside Services, Miscellaneous Expenses, and Meal and Conference Expenses: F&P incurred expenses in the amount of \$19,472.01 in connection with necessary fees in other categories. Such categories included wire fees for funds transfers, outside document filing, court docket fees, and retrieval services, and miscellaneous meals and costs.
- 78. All expenses incurred by F&P in connection with its representation of the Trustee were ordinary and necessary expenses. All expenses billed to the Trustee were billed in the same manner as F&P bills non-bankruptcy clients.

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79. F&P does not bill its clients or seek compensation in this Amended Final Fee Application for certain overhead expenses, such as local and long-distance telephone calls, secretarial services, and facsimile transmissions. Instead, such expenses are factored into F&P's hourly rates. F&P has not included certain other charges described herein in its overhead because it has determined that it is fairer to its smaller clients who use proportionately less of these services to have these expenses billed separately.

#### ALLOCATION OF FEES AMONGST TASK CATEGORIES AND ESTATES

- 80. As noted in the Introduction to this Amended Final Fee Application, after having received several informal objections from the Trustee and Mr. Martino, as well as the objections of Shaw Gussis Fishman Glantz Wolfson & Towbin LLC set forth in that certain *Motion for Scheduling Order and Related Relief as to Final Applications for Compensation and Expenses by the Attorneys for the Trustee* (Docket No. 1293), F&P engaged in a detailed analysis of each of the almost 7,000 professional time entries evidencing the services rendered to the Trustee during the Final Fee Application Period. In so doing, F&P's objectives were to allocate its billings among the Debtors' estates and among particular task categories to the fullest extent possible under the circumstances.
- 81. **Polo Builders, Inc.:** F&P has determined that its billings allocable to the Polo Builders, Inc. estate are in the aggregate amount of \$2,532,138.70, representing 11,145.7 hours of attorney and paraprofessional time. These amounts can further be divided into: (1) time spent investigating the Debtors' Ponzi scheme and prosecuting the Ponzi scheme adversary proceedings, which totals 5,120.5 hours and \$1,182,152.50 in billings; and (2) time spent on non-Ponzi matters (including general case administration and the disposition of the Debtors' real estate assets), which totals 6,025.2 hours and \$1,349,986.20 in billings.

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- 82. **RERM Adversary Proceeding:** F&P has separately accounted for time billed to the RERM adversary proceeding, as it was a distinct and discrete component of its representation of the Trustee in these cases, and because F&P has agreed to waive its claim for any time billed to this adversary proceeding. F&P has determined that its billings allocable to the RERM adversary proceeding are in the aggregate amount of \$928,342.90, representing 3,676.4 hours of attorney and paraprofessional time.
- 83. **M.G. International LLC:** F&P has determined that its billings allocable to the M.G. International LLC estate are in the aggregate amount of \$260,148.00, representing 829.7 hours of attorney and paraprofessional time. Time spent with respect to the M.G. International estate primarily relates to the designation rights deal crafted by F&P and the disposition of real estate assets owned by M.G. International.
- 84. **Hasan and Sheri Merchant:** F&P has determined that its billings allocable to the Hasan and Sheri Merchant estates are in the aggregate amount of \$157,871.00, representing 623.4 hours of attorney and professional time. These amounts relate primarily to the investigation of the Merchants' pre-bankruptcy conduct and to the negotiation and documentation of the Merchant settlement agreement.
- 85. **M&MM Enterprises LLC:** F&P has determined that its billings allocable to the M&MM Enterprises LLC estate are in the aggregate amount of \$165.00, representing 1.1 hours of paraprofessional time related to an analysis of M&MM's schedules of assets and liabilities.

#### **BILLING ACCOMMODATION**

86. F&P recognizes that while it is expected that substantial sums may be brought into the Debtors' estates in the future, both as a result of the Merchant Settlement and recoveries on the Ponzi Scheme avoidance actions brought by the Trustee, the administrative claims sought

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by the Trustee and his professionals are substantial, and run the risk of fully subsuming available estate resources.

- 87. Given these circumstances, in order to promote the efficient wind-down of these estates, and in order to address questions raised concerning the reasonableness of its fees, F&P is willing to reduce its request for compensation for the professional time incurred for the RERM adversary proceeding, and its corresponding request for payment, by the amount of \$928,342.90, representing all time billed for said matter.
- 88. In addition, F&P is willing to reduce its request for compensation for the prosecution of the Ponzi scheme adversary proceedings, and its corresponding request for payment, by an additional \$1,182,152.50, representing all time billed to the prosecution of said matter. F&P acknowledges that the estates' recoveries on these adversary proceedings, which aggregated approximately \$350,000, fell far short of the aggregate time billed thereto, and therefore may cause the filing of objections. In order to address concerns raised concerning the reasonableness of its fees related thereto, F&P will waive this claim to compensation for the professional time on the Ponzi scheme adversary prosecution. F&P does however, seek reimbursement of expenses incurred with respect to these adversary proceedings, as set forth in this Amended Final Fee Application.
- 89. Accordingly, in order to ensure that these estates are administratively solvent, to facilitate the conclusion of these long-pending cases and to minimize possible litigation related to professional fee applications, F&P will accommodate these estates by reducing the amounts sought in this Amended Final Fee Application by the aggregate amount of \$2,110,495.40. Accordingly, taking into account the \$1,518,879.56 in payments received by F&P on account of previously-approved First Interim Fee Application and Monthly Statements, F&P asserts that its

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outstanding fee claim is in the amount of \$249,290.94, for which it seeks approval and payment. This claim is exclusive of the \$270,235.92 in fees and expenses set forth in the Enforcement Fee Application, and further, is exclusive of F&P's claim for reimbursable expenses set forth in this Amended Final Fee Application.

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WHEREFORE, F&P respectfully requests that the Court enter an order:

(a) allowing F&P \$1,768,170.20 in final compensation for the Final Fee Application

Period as chapter 7 administrative expenses of the Debtors' estates pursuant to sections 503(b)

and 507(a) of title 11 of the United States Code, representing \$3,878,665.60 in total billings

minus \$2,110,495.20 in voluntary accommodations;

(b) allowing F&P \$178,829.06 in final reimbursable expenses (net of expense

reimbursement reductions) for the Final Fee Application Period as chapter 7 administrative

expenses of the Debtors' estates pursuant to sections 503(b) and 507(a) of title 11 of the United

States Code;

(c) authorizing payment to F&P of all allowed fees set forth in this Amended Final

Fee Application, after taking into account (1) all payments received by F&P on account of the

First Interim Fee Application, the Relevant Monthly Statements, and the periods of April 2005

through July 2005, June 2006 through July 2006, and September 2006 through September 4,

2007 and (2) the accommodation offered by F&P above;

(d) authorizing payment to F&P of \$178,829.06 in unpaid expenses; and

(e) granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: October 15, 2012

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